REMARKS

Claims 1-28 remain for consideration and are thought to be allowable over the cited art. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The allowability of claims 5-6, 14-15 and 24-25 is acknowledged. However, no amendments are made because all claims are thought to be allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action fails to establish that claims 1-4, 8-13, 16-23 and 26-28 are unpatentable 35 under USC §103(a) over US 2001/0015919 to Kean ("Kean") in view of admitted prior art. The rejection is respectfully traversed because the Office Action fails to show that all the limitations are suggested by Kean and admitted prior art and fails to provide a proper motivation for modifying the teachings of Kean.

The claims include limitations of a decryption algorithm implemented by the decryptor, wherein the decryption algorithm uses data from the address indicator for decrypting the encrypted bitstream. The Office Action fails to show that these limitations are either shown or suggested by Kean.

The Office Action admits that Kean does not suggest these limitations, and simply cites the prior art teaching of a frame address that indicates an address into which configuration data will be loaded. However, the Office Action does not cite any teaching by Kean of using anything other than decryption keys for decryption. Nor does the Office Action cite any suggestion by the prior art that an address may be used for anything other than addressing the configuration memory. Thus, the Office Action fails to show any teaching or suggestion of using an address in a decryption algorithm as implemented by a decryptor.

The alleged motivation for modifying Kean the prior art is conclusory, based on hindsight, and therefore improper. The alleged motivation states that the modification would have been obvious "so as to indicate the types of control information that can be loaded into the registers." Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the failure of the Office Action to consider that the decryption algorithm implemented by the decryptor uses data from the address indicator in decrypting the encrypted bitstream makes this proposed modification ineffective to achieve the claimed invention. That

is, it would be impossible to modify Kean in the manner suggested in the Office Action to reach the claimed invention. Therefore, the alleged motivation is improper.

Independent claims 11, 20, and 21 include similar limitations and are not shown to be unpatentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, and 28 depend from the independent claims named above and are, therefore, not shown to be unpatentable.

The limitations of claims 9-10 are not shown to be suggested by Kean. The limitations indicate that the value from the bitstream that is loaded into the address indicator, which is used both for addressing and decryption, in one embodiment is encrypted in the bitstream and in another embodiment is not encrypted in the bitstream. Kean's paragraph [0112] teaches that an initial value required in cipher block chaining mode is created on-chip and saved as part of the header, which is not encrypted as taught by Kean in paragraph [0090]. Thus, the cited initial value used by Kean is not used for both addressing and for decryption, and the initial value is not encrypted in the bitstream. Thus, the limitations of claims 9 and 10 are not shown to be suggested by Kean. The limitations of claims 26 and 27 are similarly not shown to be suggested by Kean.
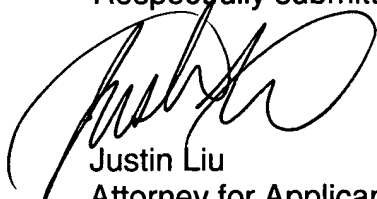
Claim 19 includes limitations of disabling partial reconfiguration of the PLD in response to decryption of the configuration bitstream. These limitations are not shown to be suggested by Kean. Kean teaches that FPGAs may be partially configured and different initial values are used for each bitstream fragment for security. The Office Action leaps to the conclusion that "preventing attack would be implemented to disallow partial reconfiguration once configuration with decryption is started." There is no evidence presented, nor does Kean suggest, that partial reconfiguration is disabled. The rationale provided in the Office Action uses the claim limitations instead of presenting evidence from the prior art. Therefore, the limitations of claim 19 are not shown to be suggested by Kean, and the alleged motivation for modifying Kean is improper.

The rejection of claims 1-4, 8-13, 16-23 and 26-28 over Kean should be withdrawn because the Office Action fails to show all the limitations are suggested by Kean and fails to provide a proper motivation for modifying Kean. Therefore, the Office Action fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patent, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA., 22313-1450, on August 8, 2005.

Julie Matthews
Name

Signature